



Attorney Docket 040356/0428

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yuki NAKAJIMA et al.
Title: VEHICLE CONTROL SYSTEM AND VEHICLE CONTROL METHOD
Appl. No.: 10/073,879
Filing Date: 02/14/2002
Examiner: L. Pham
Art Unit: 2834

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 AND § 1.97**

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form SB/08 is a listing of documents known to applicants in order to comply with applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. Copies of the listed documents are being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97-1.98.

The submission of such a document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE AND FEE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) prior to the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(c), a statement or fee is required. The statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) is provided below.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

Documents A2-A9 were cited in a European search report during prosecution of a counterpart European application. Documents A1-A5, A8, and A9 are in English. Document A6 is in Japanese. Document A7 is in French and corresponds to document A1 which is in English. A copy of the European search report is also enclosed to provide the relevance of document A6.

An English language translation of document A6 is not readily available; however, an English language abstract is provided herewith. The absence of such a translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 CFR §1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609).

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 24, 2003

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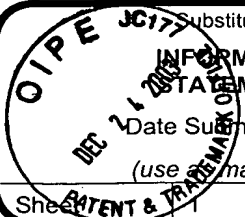
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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

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 Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: <u>December 24, 2003</u> (use many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/073,879
		Filing Date	02/14/2002
		First Name and Inventor	Yuki NAKAJIMA et al.
		Group Art Unit	2834
		Examiner Name	L. Pham
Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>		Attorney Docket Number	040356-0428

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	5,847,520		THEURILLAT et al.	12/08/1998	
	A2	5,898,282		DROZDZ et al.	04/27/1999	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A3	EP	0 543 390	A1	FURUTANI et al.	05/26/1993		
	A4	EP	0 645 278	A1	NII	03/29/1995		
	A5	EP	0 718 950	A2	NII et al.	06/26/1996		
	A6	JP	8-47109		MASAAKI	02/16/1996		
	A7	EP	0 782 941	A1	THEURILLAT et al.	07/09/1997		
	A8	EP	0 943 475	A2	NAKAJIMA et al.	09/22/1999		
	A9	EP	1 010 569	A1	UCHIDA	06/21/2000		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.